Mr. A. Krishna Pillai (Member, Trading Classes, Kayankulam) sa
the State expenditure during the past few years was sanctioned without due r
the nature of the revenue receipts. There was consequently a deficit during
two years, which was bound to increase in course of time when the re-organisa
the various departments had their full effect. The revenue had already attained i
mum. He therefore considered that a financial equilibrium could be maintai
by curtailing the expenditure. Taking department by department, he said t
staff of the Public Works Department was out of all proportion to the wor
were expected to execute. Over a fifth of the allotment for the departr
absorbed by the staff, and the major portion of the remainder spent on costly b
in the headquarters. The large allotment for public works did not therefore
the people of the State as a whole. He suggested the desirability of giv
portant works on contract to the lowest tenderer in an auction, held afte
cation, in the Gazette, of a notice regarding such auction sufficiently early to
bidders. Coming to the Sanitary Department, he too considered that the
ment, as at present constituted, was a source of unnecessary waste of mone
might be abolished, leaving the vaccination section alone with a limited nun
supervising officers under the control of the Darbar Physician. In the Forest
ment, he said that the income was not commensurate with the very large area
forests. The small increase in receipts during recent years was due to the rai
the tariff rates for timber and the book adjustment of the price of timber, etc., s
to other departments. The receipts from the minor forest produce were nom
were capable of considerable development. He advocated the desirability of r
ing the export duty on timber and of reducing the tariff rates to three-
of the present rates, and said that those measures would also develop
venue of the department in the long run. In the Education Depa
the officers of the higher grade were paid very large salaries. The T
College would, in a short time, be found unnecessary, as all the schools of th
would soon be equipped with the adequate trained staff. The expe
on school buildings was also extravagant. He next pointed out the uselessn
Circle Inspectors in the Police Department, of the Assistant Excise C
sioners in the Excise Department, and of a few of the Assistant Head Sirkar
and District Court Sirkar Vakils. He urged that officers of approved mer
capacity might be retained in service until they were sixty years old, as their
retirement would result in loss to the service and at the same time swell the ex
ture under the head of pensions. The scales of pay of officers might be perma
reduced and the difference, if any, between the new scale and their present pay, s
to the present men as personal allowance. He also supported the proposal t
export duty on tea and rubber.

Dewan's reply.— Noted.

3. Need for a more liberal and equitable distribution of the annual budget allotments for public works, agriculture and sanitation among the several taluks and towns of the St

Mr. T. N. Achutha Panikkar (Member, T. I. C., Parur) said that the
was pressed on the attention of the Government at the previous sessions of t
sembly, but nothing had so far been done in the matter. He was of opinion t
present distribution of the annual budget allotments was not fair in respect of
northern taluks. The allotment for each taluk under the heads of public works, a
ture and sanitation should bear a reasonable proportion to the revenue of a taluk
population, but the present system of distribution was not conducive to that en
improvement of the Chathanad-Kuriapalli road, in the Parur taluk, sanctio
the Government as the result of the many years' prayer of the people, did not
place in the budget for the current year, though works of less importance ha
provided for. At the time of the construction of the Petchipara dam at an en
cost, the people of Central and North Travancore were told that their needs
be attended to after the completion of the work. Soon after, the Governme
launched into another costly work, *viz.*, the construction of the Extens
the Railway from Quilon to Trivandrum, also at an enormous cost cons

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the present financial depression. To the cry of the people of the northern taluks for public works, 'want of funds' was generally urged as an answer. He advocated the desirability of raising loans for the construction of useful re-productive works, such as, the extension of the Railway. It was a well-known truth that all Governments, desiring the health and prosperity of their people, should afford every facility to make their village life healthy. Construction of public wells, improvement of public tanks and provision of easy means of communication were essential for the purpose, but very little was being done under those heads at present. The maintenance of the village roads by the Public Works Department was unsatisfactory. The Member therefore prayed that more funds should annually be allotted to meet those requirements of the mofussil villages, and that a portion of the allotment for each taluk should be entrusted to the Town Improvement Committees for the maintenance of the roads in the town.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

4. Curtailment of administrative expenditure.

Mr. S. Subrahmanya Pillai (Member, Trading Classes, Nagercoil) said that the expenditure had far exceeded the revenue, and that it was high time, therefore, to adopt measures for curtailing the former to place the finances of the State on a sound footing, as there was no possibility of increasing the revenue from the already over-burdened tax-payer. He was of opinion that the importation of foreigners to high-paid offices was a source of hardship to the natives and of loss to Government, as most of the offices could be profitably filled by the able sons of the soil on a less pay. He next referred to the Public Works Department and said that the number and pay of the officers of the higher grades were far above the requirements. The staff for the Trivandrum Division was prodigious. The present system of giving works on contract was fraught with evils resulting in loss of money to the State. Works were constructed and demolished for technical faults, without the officer responsible being rendered liable for the loss. He also referred to the large expenditure on travellers' bungalows without a corresponding income. In the Police Department, the officers of the higher ranks were too many and large savings could be effected by curtailing their pay and that of the establishment. In the Education Department, the pay of the higher officers, such as the Professors, Assistant Professors, Tutors and Headmasters of Higher Grade Secondary Schools, was too much and their number was capable of reduction. The pay of the District Magistrate, he thought, need not be more than that of a District Judge. He complained against the importation of medicines from Europe at a great cost while there were so many medicinal plants in India, from which almost all the medicines required could be extracted, and also against the award of grants to some of the private medical institutions, such as the L. M. S. Hospital and the Salvation Army Hospital. He advocated the desirability of reducing the rates of pension to high-paid officials.

He next referred to the hardships of the people of the town of Nagercoil, owing to taxation by the Town Improvement Committee, and complained against the practice now followed of issuing demand notices before the tax was demanded. He complained also against the action of the Tahsildars in removing encroachments and prayed that an appeal might be allowed to the Peishkars against their decisions, instead of to the Government direct.

Mr. V. Kunjukrishna Pillai (Member, T. I. C., Attungal) said that the cost of administration in Travancore did not bear a reasonable proportion to the amount spent on public service. The Government had to curtail the expenditure under the latter head during 1091 for want of funds. He therefore proposed certain measures for reducing the cost of administration so that the allotments for public service might not suffer. Taking the Land Revenue Department, the Member thought that it was necessary to adequately strengthen the staff and to amalgamate the Registration and Survey Departments with it. The preliminary work in connection with the registration of documents might be entrusted to the village officers who would be able to

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